

IHI's Trillion Dollar Prescription

Goal: Cut Healthcare Waste by 50% (\$500B) by 2025

People often wonder: 1) is this possible? 2) How do we do it?

Is it Possible?

Using the [4-50 Rule](#), we know that less than 4% of medical systems and practices cause over 50% of the patient harm and waste. Using data, we can pinpoint what isn't working and fix it. Note: we don't have to fix everything, just the 4%. This will reduce workload and improve outcomes.

Like patients, hospitals and other medical facilities underlying "illnesses" are somewhat different. The biggest problem in one hospital may not be the same as another one. So, this may need to be done hospital by hospital, waste by waste. But with laser-focus driven by data, it won't be that difficult.

How Do We Do It?

The IHI has identified multiple levels of patient harm, a key contributor to waste. Each type of patient harm is counted over time in medical record and other healthcare systems, so it becomes easy to:

- Use p, u or XmR control charts to track each type of patient harm over time.
- Use Pareto charts to identify exactly where and when each type of patient harm occurs. (Laser focus)
- Use Rapid Improvement Teams (RIT) to identify the root causes of each type of harm identified by the Pareto chart and implement countermeasures to mistake-proof care.
- Verify and monitor results using control charts.
- Repeat until desired results achieved.

The IHI identified "Misdiagnosis" as the number one cause of waste in healthcare (\$100M). These "events" can also be tracked and improved using the same tools.

Note that you don't need to learn every tool in the improvement toolbox, just a [few key tools](#). The 4-50 rule suggests that 4% of the tools will solve over half of all problems. But we will want to shift from training to getting immediate results. How do we do it? By combining limited training and [software](#) to get improvements in a day or two.

We offer a free Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt training (www.lssyb.com) to help anyone learn these methods and tools in eight hours!

We have also created an [Agile Lean Six Sigma Trainer Training](#) (also free) to help healthcare improvement professionals learn how to conduct one-day trainings focused on achieving results. Companies such as Christus Health, Novartis, Crayola and Underwriters Laboratories have recently presented at quality conferences describing how they have used this approach to get results.

Achieving the Trillion Dollar Checkbook Goal

With data-driven laser-focus, it will be possible to find and fix the 4% of healthcare that is causing over 50% of the waste. Focusing on the 4% will reduce the time required to diagnose and treat healthcare's "illnesses" while delivering accelerated positive patient outcomes.

Using these "therapies" aggressively can easily achieve the 2025 goal with time to spare.

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